UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN	
SOUTHERN DIVISION	
RAMSEY TOSSA, RAKIA TOSSA,	
SILVIA TOSSA and RHONDA TOSSA,	
Plaintiffs,	
-vs- No: 14-12319	
HON. GERALD E. ROSEN	
MAG. MICHAEL HLUCHANIUK	
Federal Task Force Officer (T.F.O.)	
ADAM TARDIF, U.S. Drug Enforcement	
Agency (D.E.A.); Group Supervisor	
KENT KLEINSCHMIDT, D.E.A.; Federal	
T.F.O. POWELL, D.E.A.; Special Agent	
(S.A.) CHERYL BENEDICT, D.E.A.; S.A.	
HOLTON, D.E.A.; S.A. FITCH, D.E.A.;	
S.A. MOORE, D.E.A.; S.A. WEST, D.E.A.;	
S.A. HOPKINS, D.E.A.; Officer KENNETH	
BRESINSKI, S.H.P.D.; Officer TOM STECHLY,	
S.H.P.D.; Michigan State Police Trooper	
M.T. UNTERBRINK; all in their individual	
and/or official capacities,	
Defendants.	
/	



	Page 6	Page 8
1	TABLE OF CONTENTS	<sup>1</sup> Q. How much do you weigh?
2		<sup>2</sup> A. About 190.
3	WITNESS PAGE	Q. You're a special agent with the drug enforcement
4	JEREMY FITCH	4 agency?
5	Examination by Mr. Goodman 7	5 A. Administration, yes.
6	Examination by Mr. Fedynsky 65	6 Q. Administration, yes.
7		<sup>7</sup> A. Yes, sir.
8		8 Q. How long have you been an agent with the DEA?
9	EXHIBITS	9 A. I've been an agent since August of 2010, so
10	2/11/51/10	going on six years. I started the academy in
11	NUMBER PAGE	March, but became an agent in August.
12	Deposition Exhibit No. 1 17	Q. Do you have a law enforcement background prior
13	(Notice of Taking Deposition)	to that?
14	Deposition Exhibit No. 2 45	14 A. I do not.
15	(Manchester Report of Investigation)	Q. What did you do prior to that?
16		16 A. I worked for a health care consulting firm. We
17	Deposition Exhibit No. 3 42 (Operational Plan)	7. I Worked for a fleatin care consulting little. We
18		did mergers, acquisitions, strategic planning,
19	Deposition Exhibit No. 4 18	operations improvement for nospitals and medical
20	(Photograph)	conters, university medical centers.
21	Deposition Exhibit No. 5 23	G. Educational background:
22	(Marc Drive Report of Investigation)	7. Thave a Bachelot 3 of Galerice from Michigan
23	Deposition Exhibit No. 6 35	Otate offiversity. Thave a master's from
24	(Handwritten Notes)	Offiverally of Millinesota.
25		Q. Master's in?
25		<sup>25</sup> A. Healthcare Administration.
	Page 7	Page 9
1	Detroit, Michigan	<sup>1</sup> Q. Okay. Have you ever been deposed before?
2	Thursday, June 16, 2016	<sup>2</sup> A. I have not.
3	1:06 p.m.	Q. I'm going to basically give you the basic ground
4		4 rules and see if we can understand one another.
5	JEREMY FITCH	5 A. Yes, sir.
6	was thereupon called as a witness herein, after	<ul> <li>Q. I'm here to ask you some questions and I expect</li> </ul>
7	having been first duly sworn to tell the truth,	you to answer those questions. If you don't
8	the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, was	8 understand or can't hear anything or you need to
9	examined and testified as follows:	have it repeated, please tell me and I will
10	MR. GOODMAN: All right. The record	clarify it, rephrase it or repeat it for you.
11	will show this is the deposition of Agent Jeremy	Do you understand?
12	Fitch taken pursuant to Notice under the Federal	12 A. Yes, sir.
13	Rules of Civil Procedure for any and all	Q. And the court reporter is writing down
14	purposes therein provided.	everything we say, so that if you just need the
15	EXAMINATION	question read back, she can read it back for us
16	BY MR. GOODMAN:	as well. You understand that, right?
17	Q. Is it okay if I call you Agent Fitch? Will that	<sup>17</sup> A. I do, yes.
18	work?	71. 1 40, 300.
19	A. That's fine.	a. This as you are now doing, please answer the
20	CONTROL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PRO	questions verbany because sometimes people will
21	Q. State your full name, Agent Fitch, please?	riod, shake their flead, say un-fluir of un-un and
		21 that makes for an unclear or uncertain record,
22	A. Jeremy Carter Fitch, F-i-t-c-h.	22 co if you do that I'll the to remain do not to
	Q. How old are you?	so if you do that, I'll try to remind you to
23	Q. How old are you? A. I am 40.	23 answer verbally. Do you understand?
22 23 24 25	Q. How old are you?	oo ii you do tilat, i ii iy to remina you to

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Yes, sir.

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1 just trying to get a good record, okay? 2

A. Understood.

- 3 Q. If your attorney or any of the attorneys object to any of my questions, please withhold your answer until the objection is stated on the record and then most likely you'll be expected to answer the question, okay?
- 8 A. Yes, sir.
- 9 Q. And again, if you don't remember it at that 10 point or you're distracted because of the 11 objection, it can be repeated or read back, all 12
- 13 A. Yes, sir.
- 14 Q. With that in mind, let's proceed. I sort of 15 want to, if I may, skip ahead a little bit in 16 the story and ask you about your encounter with 17 Mr. Ramsey Tossa on July 26th, 2011. Do you 18 recall that event?
- 19 A. I do.
- 20 Q. All right. And that was you were executing a 21 search warrant, is that right, sir, part of a 22 team that was executing a search warrant?
- 23 Yes, sir.
- 24 Q. And what was your assignment for that particular 25 operation, if you can recall?

- Q. Who announced?
  - A. David Powell
- 4 Q. Who knocked?
- A. I don't actually -- I don't recall. I remember 6
  - David Powell announcing
  - Q. And how was the door opened, if you can recall?
- 8 A. I don't recall. I do know that it wasn't breached.
- 9 Q. When you say breached, do you mean like rammed 10 open or forced open?
- 11 A. Or forced open.
  - Q. Right. Do you know who opened it?
- 13 A. I do not.
- 14 Q. Did you see the door opened?
- 15 A. I did see -- I didn't see the -- I don't recall 16 seeing the door open, but I recall seeing it 17 open when individuals such as Mr. Tossa came out 18 of the door.
  - Q. Did you see Mr. Tossa come out of the door?
- 20 A. Yes, I did.
  - What happened when he came out of the door?
- 22 He was escorted by Agent Holton to the porch and 23 off the porch and handed to me.
- 24 Q. Let's go back for just a moment. When you say 25 he was escorted by Agent Holton, can you

- A. I was assigned to the entry team.
- Q. And did you, in fact, enter the house immediately?
- A. I did not.
- Q. What was -- why not? What were you doing?
- A. I was observing and staying with Mr. Tossa.
- Q. How is it that you were observing and staying with Mr. Tossa rather than entering the house? Who instructed you to do that?
- A. It's just routine operations during a search 10 warrant. I was in the rear of the stack, so 11 naturally as people came from the house, they 12 would be -- they're handed off to the rear to 13 clear an entryway into the house.
- 14 Q. And the people in the rear of the stack are 15 expected to keep an eye on the people who are 16 handed off to them. Is that what you're saying?
- 17 A. Typically.
- Q. And that was the role that you were playing on 18 19 this particular night?
- 20 A. Yes, sir. Right. I didn't go into the search 21 warrant expecting to do that, but I'm always 22 prepared to do that if that's the case.
- 23 Q. And explain the circumstances -- did you 24 actually observe the knock and announce at the 25 house door?

- describe the manner in which he was escorted?
- 2 A. Sure. He was taken by the arm and guided. It
  - was more of a guiding than -- I guess that's probably the best description. He was guided
- 5 off the porch. It wasn't that large of a step,
- so he was guided as he was taking steps down the
  - porch for Mr. Tossa's safety.
- 8 Q. Guided to prevent him from tripping or falling?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. How did he appear at that time?
- 11 A. Rapid breathing, but I didn't notice anything 12 out of the ordinary. I mean he was an older 13 gentleman.
- 14 Q. You observed rapid breathing, however, is that 15 right?
- 16 A. I heard rapid breathing.
- 17 Q. Did you consider the possibility that he was 18 having shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?
- 19 A. Rapid breathing isn't unusual in our line of work.
  - Q. It's not unusual?
- 21 A. No, not at all. I mean it's a stressful 22 situation for everybody.
- 23
- 24 A. So I mean even myself, I have to work on slowing 25 my breathing down, so it's not unusual. I



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- wasn't surprised by seeing that.
- Q. And when you say you have to slow your breathing down, why would you be breathing rapidly under
- these circumstances?
- A. I don't know who's in there, if someone's armed. We do high -- I mean the search warrants,
- naturally drug trafficking is dangerous, just
- the nature, the very nature of doing search
- warrants. I've heard numerous stories of people
- 10 getting shot, attacked, assaulted, so I was only
- 11 on for a year or so. I was even more amped up 12 than I am now so to speak.
- 13 Q. Less than a year actually, right?
- 14 A. I was on for less than a year. I'm sorry.
- 15 Q. And so you were operating under a certain level 16 of stress yourself given the circumstances of 17 the operation, right?
- 18 A. Yes, sir.
- 19 Q. Did you see Mr. Tossa step out of the doorway or
- 20 did you just observe him once he was on the 21 porch for the first time?
- 22 A. Once he was on the porch.
- Q. All right. So do you know how he was touched,
- 24 grabbed or held as he exited the doorway itself?
- 25 A. I do not.

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## Page 16

- Holton to have searched him as well?
- 2 MS. URBANIC: Objection as to form, but 3
  - certainly answer if you understood the question.
  - Q. (Continuing, by Mr. Goodman) Go ahead.
  - A. It depends on the circumstances I should say.
  - Generally it's been my experience that they're
- not routinely searched. If something is
  - observed, then they would be searched or, you
- 9 know, if a gun was observed, it would be taken
- 10 immediately, but it's not -- it's not -- I don't
- 11 typically observe people searching them as
- 12 they're handing them back.
  - Q. You viewed this as your role to do the searching, is that right, sir?
- 15 Yes, sir.
- 16 And did you search him?
  - Briefly.
- 18 Q. How did you do that?
  - A. Just a quick pat on the waist initially.
- 20 Q. And when he was handed to you, did you touch him 21
  - or hold onto him in any fashion at all?
- 22 A. Yes, when he was handed to me I continued to 23 guide him to where I ultimately placed him just
- 24 a couple of steps off the porch.
- 25 Q. You placed him on the grass, is that right, sir?

- 1 Q. Was anyone other than Agent Holton holding onto
  - Mr. Tossa or near him at the time he was
- escorted down to you?
- A. As he was nearing the, I guess the portion of
- the porch where I could see, it appeared only that Agent Holton was escorting him.
- Q. And you said you heard rapid breathing, but other than rapid breathing, did you hear
- anything that indicated that Mr. Tossa was 10 having any difficulty breathing?
- 11 A. No. sir.
- 12 Q. How was he dressed?
- 13 A. I don't recall. He was dressed. I know that. I don't recall how he was dressed.
- 15 Q. Did he have pants on?
- 16 A. I don't recall if they were pants or shorts or what. I mean I don't recall.
- 18 Q. By the time he was handed to you, would it have 19 been routine for him to have been searched for 20 weapons or dangerous instruments of any sort?
- 21 A. Not always. I see that as my responsibility.
- 22 Even if he was searched and handed off, I would 23 conduct another search.
- 24 Q. We'll get to that in a minute, but you say it 25 would not have been routine for let's say Agent

- Page 17
- A. Yes, sir, he was compliant, so I just assisted him in getting down to the grass.
- Q. When you say down to the grass, what do you mean?
- 4 A. I had him initially proned out on his chest.
- Q. Okay. Let me go through a couple of these
- 6 exhibits first, if I may.
- A. Sure.
- Q. What is before you here is what is marked Moore
  - and Fitch Exhibit 1. Have you seen that
- 10 document before?
- 11 A. Yes, sir.
- 12 Q. And it asks you to bring with you certain
  - documents, does it not?
- 14 Oh, I'm sorry. This document you're referring to?
- 15 Q. Yes, that's right.
- 16 A. Yes, sir.
- 17 Q. And did you bring those with you?
- 18 MS. URBANIC: Objection. I just want 19 to incorporate by reference the objections that
- 20 have already been placed in response to Agent
- 21 Fitch's Responses to Plaintiffs' Requests for
- 22 Production and incorporate all those objections
- 23
- 24 Q. (Continuing, by Mr. Goodman) Over objection, did 25 you bring those with you?

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## Page 18

- <sup>1</sup> A. They are in Miss Urbanic's room.
- Q. So your attorney has the documents, is that right? Is that what you're saying?
- 4 A. I set them on the desk in her office.
- Q. All right. By the way, do you have any personal notes of this incident at all, handwritten notes?
- A. I do not. No, I do not, sir.
- Q. Or typewritten notes of any sort?
- 9 A. I do not, sir.

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MS. URBANIC: I would just again reiterate the objection. This is duplicative of the previous Request for Production of Documents.

Q. (Continuing, by Mr. Goodman) All right. Let's get back to where we were, which was you placing Mr. Tossa on the ground.

MR. GOODMAN: Off the record.

(Off the record discussion.)

- Q. (Continuing, by Mr. Goodman) I'm going to hand you what has previously been marked as Moore and Fitch Exhibit 4 and ask you if you can identify this as the area in front of the Tossa residence?
- A. I'm having trouble seeing it. I mean it was a
   smaller yard. It looks similar.
- Q. It looks similar anyway, is that right?
- A. Yes, sir.

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- Q. So you took him out to the lawn and then what
   did you do in terms -- I think you said
  - something about placing him prone on the ground,
  - is that right?
- A. I assisted him in getting to the -- having him,
   getting him into a position where he was proned
   onto the grass.
  - Q. How did he know he was supposed to get prone onto the grass?
  - A. I was giving him verbal commands.
- Q. What is -- I'm sorry.
- A. And he was compliant with those. So I went immediately to an assistance mode. I mean he was an older gentleman, so I was assisting him.
  - Q. What did you tell him?
- A. "I'm going to place you on the ground."
  - Q. And why did you decide to place him on the ground?
  - A. Because when I was handed him, I didn't know what he had on him. Just for the safety of himself and other officers I initially did that.
- Q. Now, you've described earlier how you had
   searched him. Do you recall that? Around his
   waist and so on?
- A. Yes. Typically I don't recall exactly when I
   did the search on this, but typically I would

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- Q. Can you see the porch area? I know it's hard.
   I apologize for the difficulty.
- A. I can't.
- Q. So let's for the moment just try and describe it
   physically. You say you escorted him out a
   couple steps away from the front porch, is that
   right, sir?
  - A. Right. It was probably a few. It was enough distance so that it would allow the team, you know, access to get in the house, so it was away from the porch. I don't remember exactly how far, but it was --
- Q. Were you also -- I'm sorry.
- A. I don't remember exactly how far, but it wasn't it was within, you know, five, ten feet.
- Q. Were you off to the side in any particular way, off to the right or left of the porch?
- A. I don't recall exactly. I mean I know it was inthe front yard off the porch.
- Q. So to say, if I were to say it was between five
   and ten feet, would that sound about right to
   you from the front porch?
- A. Yes, approximately.
- Q. All right. And it was on the lawn, right?
- 25 A. Yes, sir.

Page 21

place them onto the ground and then do a quick

- pat along the waistline.
- Q. Is that the way in which you searched him on
   this occasion?
- 5 A. I don't recall
- Q. You may well have searched him while he was
   standing up, is that right?
- A. Yes, I may have patted him around the waist. I
   don't recall though.
- 10 Q. Is it routine for you to place persons who you are detaining or holding on the ground in the way in which he was placed on the ground?
- A. For somebody that's compliant, yes. I probably assisted him more, just given his age.
- Q. But for them to get on the ground, is that routine?
- 16 A. Absolutely.
  - Q. And why is that?
  - A. For safety purposes until we can complete a full check of the individual.
    - Q. A search?
- <sup>21</sup> A. Full search.
  - Q. What about handcuffing?
- A. It's typical that we handcuff.
- Q. When they're on the ground, once they're on the ground?



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Page 22

## Jeremy Fitch 6/16/2016

E	A.	Before.
2	Q.	So you would have handcuffed him typically or
3	routinely while he was still standing, is that	

right?

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A. I should say if they're compliant I would handcuff while they're still standing typically.

Q. And he was compliant, is that right?

A. He was compliant.

Q. What was the reason that you did not handcuff him while he was still standing?

A. He was compliant and elderly, or I should say older. I just deemed -- in retrospect I probably should have, but I just didn't. In this case he just, he was an older gentleman and he was fully compliant and I just decided not to.

Q. Wasn't the reason that you did not handcuff him initially was because he was having difficulty breathing?

19 A. No, sir.

> Q. I'm going to hand you what has previously been marked Moore and Fitch Deposition Exhibit 5. Strike that. I'm going to show you what has been marked Moore and Fitch Deposition Exhibit 6 and ask you if you've seen this document before?

> > MR. GOODMAN: Off the record.

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bottom of paragraph number three, do you see where it says, "The three females were placed in

handcuffs for agent and officer safety," bottom

third of that paragraph?

A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. And then do you see the next notation, which is, "Ramsey Tossa was not handcuffed as he complained of shortness of breath." Do you see that?

A. Yes, sir.

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Q. Is that an inaccurate statement?

A. The shortness of breath didn't affect whether or not I handcuffed him.

13 Q. Did you ever tell Agent Tardif or T.F.O. Tardif 14 that the reason Ramsey Tossa was not handcuffed 15 was because he was experiencing shortness of 16 breath?

A. I don't recall.

18 Q. You may have said that?

19 A. There's a possibility. I don't recall saying 20 that though.

21 Q. Well, my question is do you deny saying that or 22 are you simply saying you can't recall one way 23 or another whether you said that?

24 I can't recall whether or not I said that.

Q. So he may have been experiencing shortness of

## Page 23

(Off the record discussion.)

MR. GOODMAN: Let's go back on the record. I want to correct the record. What I've handed the witness is report of investigation of the execution of the warrant on Marc Street in Sterling Heights on July 26th, 2011 and that is Moore and Fitch Exhibit No. 5.

MR. KASZUBSKI: Bill, could you send one down here? We're missing one I think.

Q. (Continuing, by Mr. Goodman) Can you identify this exhibit, sir?

A. Yes, sir. It's the DEA-6 report of investigation for the search warrant at Marc Drive.

14 Q. And who wrote this, if you know?

15 A. It's authored by Adam Tardif.

Q. And was this -- did he write this after he had spoken with you and others concerning the events of the operation?

> MS. URBANIC: Objection as to foundation, but answer if you know.

Q. (Continuing, by Mr. Goodman) Go ahead.

22 A. He wrote this after the search warrant. I'm not 23 sure of the timing as to whether or not I spoke 24 with him before this.

Q. Going to the second page of this report or the

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breath before you placed him on the ground, is that right?

3 A. Yes, he may have been.

4 Q. Would you have routinely placed somebody --5 withdraw that question. When you placed him on 6 the ground, you asked him to lie down on the ground, is that right, or you helped him place 8 himself so that he was prone, as you said, on 9 the ground, am I correct?

A. I assisted him to a position where he was prone on the ground.

12 Q. Which means his body was stretched out and his 13 face, he was face down on the ground, am I right?

A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. And that was I think you indicated for officer 16 safety, is that right, sir? 17

A. It's for everybody's safety.

Q. Officer and the subject's safety, is that correct, sir?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Could he, for purposes of everyone's safety, would it have been equally as sufficient to have him let's say sitting on the ground?

24 A. In hindsight, I don't know whether or not it 25 would have been, but typically I don't know who

## Page 26

- I'm encountering. We have had older people, you know, that have been just as dangerous as younger people, so I took the necessary precautions I felt best for myself and the team, which was initially proning him out, putting him, assisting him into a prone position.
- Q. How long was he prone on the ground?
- A. Just a matter of seconds.

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- Q. Was he searched while he was on the ground?
- 10 A. I don't recall specifically searching him, but 11 typically I would pat the waistline.
- 12 Q. Did you start to handcuff him while he was on 13 the ground?
- 14 A. I don't recall. Typically when they're handed 15 to us, we holster our weapon and then I would 16 routinely reach for my handcuffs, but I don't 17 know whether or not that was what I did in this
  - Q. What position were you in as you were doing this?
- 19 20 A. I don't recall specifically, but I assisted him 21 to the ground, so I mean he was using his hands 22 to get prone, so I don't know if I was -- I was 23 in a position to assist, so I'm assuming 24 kneeling, but I don't recall for sure what

#### Page 28

- A. It would be given his -- he was compliant, so 2 given the way that he was listening, it would 3 have been unreasonable to do so.
- Q. Clearly unreasonable, right?
  - A. In my opinion, it would be unreasonable to do so.
- Q. And my question was clearly unreasonable in your opinion, am I right?
- 8 A. Yes.

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- Q. Was any other officer with you assisting you while you were working with Mr. Tossa?
- 11 A. I don't recall if anybody else was there. I was focused on Mr. Tossa at the time, so I don't 13 recall.
- 14 Q. While he was prone on the ground, at any point 15 did you lift either or both of his arms up 16 toward a vertical position for the arms?
  - A. No.
- 18 Q. Did you lift any part of his body up while he 19 was prone on the ground?
- 20 A. I assisted him into a kneeling position from --21 I would have held his arm to assist him.
- 22
- 23 A. But I wouldn't have, you know, went around and 24 grabbed him. He was moving fine. He was 25 compliant and he was able to do most of it on

## Page 27

- Q. And when you were kneeling, you mean one of your knees was on the ground, is that right, or both?
- I don't recall.

position I was in.

- Q. And you say he was only in a prone position for a matter of seconds?
- 6 A. It wasn't very long. I don't recall exactly how long, but it was briefly long enough for, long enough for me probably just to pat his waist and then bring him up, so it wouldn't have been -- I 10 don't know specifically how long, but it was 11 well less than a minute.
  - Q. When you say bring him up, what do you mean?
- 13 A. Assist him in -- shortly after I proned him, 14 moments later I assisted him into a kneeling 15 position. I asked him -- he was compliant. He 16 continued rapid breathing, so I asked him to 17 assume a position that was most comfortable and 18 he went into the kneeling position or attempted 19 to push himself up so I assisted him into a 20 kneeling position.
- 21 Q. At any time while he was prone on the ground did 22 you place your knee on any part of his body?
- 23 Absolutely not.
- 24 Q. To have done so, would you agree would be 25 unreasonable and excessive use of force?

- Page 29
- his own, so I was just more assisting and talking to him moreso than anything.
- Q. When you helped him down onto the ground to be 4 placed in a prone position, describe the 5 physical contact between yourself and Mr. Tossa 6
- A. As he was going down into the prone position?
- 8 Q. Yeah.
- 9 A. I would have maintained a grip on his arm and he 10 used his other arm to lower himself into the 11 prone position, so it was more of a guiding or 12 assisting with his arm.
- 13 Q. So what you did was to hold his arm. That's 14 your description of the physical contact between 15 the two of you, am I right?
- 16 A. Right. He didn't need -- he didn't need an 17 abundance of assistance. I mean he was fairly 18 self-sufficient. He was compliant, so he was 19 able to do most of the positioning himself.
- 20 Q. At any time did you come to the opinion that 21 Mr. Tossa was a frail gentleman? 22
  - A. No.
- 23 Q. Did the two of you converse?
- 24 A. I spoke to him. I don't remember him speaking 25 to me.



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- Q. Was it clear to you that he was conversant or understood English?
- A. He was compliant, so I was under the impression that he understood enough to do as I asked.
  - Q. At some point did you determine that he was having difficulty breathing or suffering shortness of breath?
- A. I would describe his breathing as rapid and I don't know if medically there's a difference of shortness of breath versus rapid breathing, but I would describe his breathing as rapid, which again isn't atypical for what we encounter.
- Q. Yeah, in fact, you describe yourself as sometimes having the same symptomatology, is that right, sir?
- 16 A. Yes, sir.

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Q. So his shortness of breath was no different than the shortness of breath that you experience when you undertake one of these operations. Is that a fair statement?

MS. URBANIC: Objection as to foundation, but answer if you know.

A. All I could hear was just rapid breathing, but I can't say medically whether my rapid breathing is consistent with his rapid breathing.

Holton came out.

- Q. Now, were there any other residents of the household who were placed on the front lawn?
- A. I don't recall anybody else being on the front
- Q. Do you recall the women who had been in the house being brought outside the house?
- A. I don't know when -- well, I can say that I believe the women came out after Mr. Tossa, but I didn't see the manner in which they were brought out because at that point I was occupied with Mr. Tossa.
- Q. Occupied doing what?
- A. My focus was on him, so I don't know when exactly they came out, but I was assisting him to the prone position, assisting him to a kneeling position, talking with him, looking at him, searching, quickly searching.
- Q. And during that period of time did you hear any
   of the women that had been brought out of the
   house saying anything?
- A. I heard yelling by one or more of the women.
  - Q. What was being yelled, if you can recall?
- A. I don't specifically remember what was being yelled.

#### Page 31

- Q. (Continuing, by Mr. Goodman) Did you at some point come to the opinion or conclusion that
- Ramsey Tossa was suffering from shortness of breath?
- A. Not in the time that I had him or that I was
- overseeing Mr. Tossa.
   Q. And how long did you oversee Mr. Tossa?
- 8 A. Just a matter of a couple of minutes.
- Q. How did that -- how did you part from Mr. Tossa?
   Let's put it that way.

A. Sure. Agent Holton, as soon as the residence

- was cleared, Agent Holton came to where we were
  and he essentially assisted Mr. Tossa in getting
  back into the house, so he maybe had some
  conversation. I don't know what happened, but
  he came out and assisted in getting Mr. Tossa
  back into the house.
- Q. Why did he come out to assist Mr. Tossa, if you know?
- A. I don't know exactly why he did that.
- Q. Did he indicate, did Holton indicate to you that
   he had heard or learned that Ramsey Tossa was
   suffering from difficulty breathing or shortness
   of breath?
- A. I don't know what -- I don't know why Agent

Page 33

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- Q. Was there anything being yelled that had
   anything to do with Mr. Tossa, if you know?
- A. I don't recall. I don't recall hearing anything
   related to Mr. Tossa.
- Q. Did you say anything to any of the women whowere yelling?
- 7 A. I did not.
- 8 Q. Could you tell whether they were yelling at you?
  - A. No.
- Q. Did you hear anybody tell any of the women to, "Shut up"?
- A. I did not.
- Q. Did you tell any of the women to shut up?
- <sup>14</sup> A. I did not.
- Q. Or did you use the phrase, "Shut the fuck up"?
- A. I did not.
- Q. Or hear it used?
- A. I did not. I did not exchange any conversation
   with anyone.
- Q. My question though was whether you heard that phrase used by anyone else?
- A. No, I did not. I was just answering your previous question. Sorry.
  - Q. Thank you.

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MR. GOODMAN: One second. I'm just



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Page 37

1	going to get some coffee.			
2	(Off the record discussion.)			
3	Q. (Continuing, by Mr. Goodman) Can you estimate		te	
4		how long if I've as	ked this, I apologize, but	
5		I want to ask again.	How long it was you had	
6		Mr. Tossa under you	ur control and supervision?	
7	A. I don't know specifically, but it would have			

- A. I don't know specifically, but it would have
   been in the range of, you know, two to three minutes.
- 10 Q. No more than five?
- A. No, I wouldn't think more than five, no.
- Q. Did you ever see any of the women who had been
   brought out of the house and placed on the front
   lawn in a prone position?
- A. No, I did not see anybody prone on the lawn.
- Q. Other than Mr. Tossa?
- A. Other than Mr. Tossa.

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- Q. Once Agent Holton took Tossa inside the house, what did you do?
- A. I don't recall specifically. Typically I would
  assist with the search of the residence or
  maintain vision of other occupants of the house
  such as the women. I don't recall specifically
  what I did after that.
- Q. Did you do one or the other; that is, either

Α.	Ihave

- Q. And what is this document?
- A. It appears to be handwritten notes.
- Q. And do you know whose handwritten notes they are?
- Kent Kleinschmidt, our group supervisor.
- 6 Q. And do you know when these notes were taken down?
- A. After the search warrant, but I'm not sure if it was that night or the next day.
- 9 Q. You mean after the warrant was executed?
  - A. Yes. sir.
  - Q. Was there a debriefing meeting of any sort, if you can recall?
  - I don't specifically -- I don't specifically remember a debriefing, but that's typically what we would do.
- Q. Do these notes take up the discourse -- withdraw
   that question. What happens when you do one of
   these debriefing sessions, Agent Fitch?
  - A. Usually we just discuss more mechanics of the search warrant, if there's things we can improve in doing. Occasionally we'll go over I guess various events that occurred.
- Q. And when you say the search warrant, you mean the execution of the search warrant, right?
- A. Yes, the full --

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- enter the house and search it or keep an eye on the women?
- A. I don't -- I know I did not search the house.

  At some point I did go into the house and I don't know if I was -- what I was specifically doing, if it was bringing a camera or bringing an evidence kit or what I did, but I did go into the house at one point.
- Q. Do you have any recollection one way or another
   as to whether you supervised any of the women
   who had been taken out of the residence?
  - A. I wouldn't have been supervising. Whoever had them initially would have stayed with them typically.
- Q. Do you know who that was?
- A. I believe Cheryl Benedict was one and I believe
  Steve West was out there as well, but I know
  Cheryl was. I'm not sure whether or not Steve was.
- Q. Do you know whether any of the women were handcuffed?
- A. Just from reading the report I believe they all were, but I didn't know that at the time.
- Q. I'm going to hand you what's been marked
   previously Moore and Fitch Deposition Exhibit 6
   and ask you if you've seen this document before?

Q. The operation?

- A. The full operation, yes.
- Q. And do these notes reflect the order in which the discussion took place in connection with the debriefing of this particular search warrant execution, if you know?
- A. Sorry to ask, but can you repeat that question?
- Q. Yeah, that was hard. You don't have to apologize. I apologize for the question. What I'm asking is the notes start at the top of the page and go down, down the page or two pages, right?
- A. Yes, sir
- Q. And it starts with the discussion of Ramsey Tossa. Do you see that right at the very top of these notes?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And my question is given that that's the first thing that's written down, was that the first thing your team discussed when you undertook this debriefing?

MS. URBANIC: Objection as to form, but answer as you understood the question.

 A. I don't remember the context of this discussion, but I would have spoken to Kent at this, so I don't know if there was an overall debriefing

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## Page 38

- prior to or after -- I don't know the timing of when Kent took these notes is what I should say.
- 3 Q. (Continuing, by Mr. Goodman) So my question is
- was the first thing that was discussed when you
- had your debriefing session what happened with 6 Mr. Tossa?
- A. I don't recall.
- Q. And what's noted there is, "Ramsey dad." Do you see that?
- 10 A. Yes, sir.
- 11 Q. And that means that he's the father of -- do you 12 know whose father he was?
- 13 A. Just from reading, it was I believe he had two 14 daughters and then his wife at the residence.
- 15 Q. Two of the women who were in the house, is that 16 right?
- 17 A. Yes, sir.
- 18 Q. And then it says, "Back door open unlocked.
- 19 Opened front door." Do you see that, or back 20 open I guess?
- 21 A. I see, "Unforced/opened front door."
- 22 Q. Unforced, oh, yeah. Thank you.
- 23
- 24 Q. It says, "Unforced/opened front door," is that 25
- right, sir?

## Page 40

- out" maybe, but I'm not sure.
- Q. Who is Justin?
- A. Agent Holton, sir.
- Q. Go ahead.
- A. "Put cuffs on. Noticed Ramsey wasn't doing well," and this is -- I don't know if this is exactly what he has written, but this is the way I'm reading it.
- 9 Q. Yeah, that's the way I'm reading it, too. 10 "Noticed Ramsey wasn't doing well," right?
- 11 A. Yes, sir.
- 12 Q. Do you know who that refers to, who noticed that
- 13 Ramsey wasn't doing well? 14
  - A. No, I do not.
  - Q. Okay. If that was Holton that noticed it -well, withdraw that question. At any point before Holton came back to be with Mr. Tossa on the front lawn did you notice that Ramsey wasn't doing well?
  - A. I noticed continued rapid breathing. It didn't seem to progress. It didn't seem to be more rapid or less rapid. I didn't notice a
  - difference, but I can say it was rapid breathing.
  - Q. And my question is would you describe that as your noticing that he wasn't doing well?

#### Page 39

- 1 A. That's the way I read that, yes, sir.
- Q. And then it says Jeremy. That would be you, am I right?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. "On chest, then knees," correct, sir?
- A. Yes, sir.

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- Q. Did you mention that he was only on his chest for a few seconds when you talked to Agent Kleinschmidt about this?
- 10 A. I don't remember -- I don't recall if I gave him 11 a duration, but I would have described him as 12 initially placing him on his chest and then at 13 some point bringing him to his knees.
- 14 Q. Do you know why that was discussed at all, given 15 the fact that this would have been a routine 16 operation for you to have done?
- 17 A. No. I don't often see Kent's notes. In this 18 case I mean this is, yeah, in this instance. I 19 don't know how often he keeps notes for cases.
- 20 Q. Okay. Can we skip down to the part where it 21 says Rhonda there? Do you see that?
- 22 A. Yes, sir.
- 23 Q. Can you read that? You're better at reading his 24 notes than I am I think.
- 25 A. Oh, wow. "Called her out of room. Justin taken

## Page 41

- 1 A. I would -- no. no.
  - Q. Can you read those notes below there?
- 3 A. Oh, wow. Just the third line down is the only 4 one I could venture a guess.
- Q. Thank you.
- 6 A. "Put on porch with --" It looks like this is 7 now moved into -- well, actually, I don't know. This may still be Rhonda. "Put on porch with
  - Rhonda."
- 10 Q. Oh, yeah, maybe. Then at the bottom do you see 11 your name, Jeremy?
- 12 A. Yes, sir.
- 13 Q. And what's after that?
- 14 A. I see Jeremy and above it I see maybe, "Got 15 second set of cuffs," so I don't know if that's
- 16 referring to me and if that was truly what was
- 17 indicated, I would interpret that as that I
- 18 provided someone with a second set of cuffs, if 19 that's referring to me.
  - Q. And then below that Jeremy and a dash and can you read that word after that?
- 22 A. I can't.

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- 23 Q. Neither can I. All right. Okay. Let's step 24 back for a minute. When was the first time that 25
- you learned that this operation was going to

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## Page 46

- A. I don't recall knowing that going into this. It may have we may have discussed it prior to this, but I recall briefing prior to Marc, but I don't recall if we discussed going to Marc after the Manchester search warrant.
  - Q. You say you do recall a briefing prior to the Marc Street operation?
- A. Absolutely, yes, sir.
- Q. Where was that briefing, if you can recall?
- A. It was near a, I don't know where exactly, but it was near a park. I mean I remember a decent size parking lot where we fit quite a few cars and I don't remember exactly where, but there was a briefing prior to the Marc Street address.
- Q. That would have been a park in Sterling Heights,Michigan?
- A. I believe so, yes, sir.
- Q. If I were to use the name Nelson Park, would that refresh your recollection on this point?
- A. Nelson doesn't ring a bell to me.
- Q. Okay. Now, you say you do recall a briefing prior to -- a briefing at some park before this operation. About what time was that briefing?
- A. It would have been approximately a couple hours
- after this, more probably about half an hour

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- Q. Were you told that there were other people who resided in that house as well at that time?
- A. I don't recall, but I believe that somebody
  had I believe that somebody that had observed
  or went by the location said there were multiple
  vehicles, so I think we suspected that there
  were more, but I don't recall whether or not
  that was specifically mentioned. If it was
  known, it would have typically been mentioned.
  - Q. And you say you believe that someone had mentioned it. Do you know who that person would have been?
- A. It would have -- if the operation was conducted,
   I suspect it was Adam Tardif. He's the
   operational lead, if you will, case agent.
- Q. Did anyone indicate who the persons were who were residing in the house?

MS. URBANIC: Objection, regarding a dismissed claim, but please go ahead and answer.

- I don't recall, sir. I don't recall specifically if there was mention of other individuals at the residence.
- Q. (Continuing, by Mr. Goodman) As someone who was executing this warrant, would it have been helpful for you to know that there was a family,

## Page 47

#### before we executed the search warrant at Marc.

- Q. And what time was the search warrant executed at Marc, if you can recall?
- A. It was at two -- may I refer to the exhibits?
- Q. Sure, of course.

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MR. GOODMAN: Let the record show the witness is referring to I believe it's Moore and Fitch Deposition Exhibit 5.

- A. So we executed it at 2:20 a.m., so it would have approximately been, I'm guessing, about a half hour prior to that, 1:50 a.m. ish.
- Q. (Continuing, by Mr. Goodman) And while you were being briefed sometime between one and two in the morning there at that park in Sterling Heights, what were you told about the location at Marc Street?
- A. I don't recall specifically, but that the
   residence had an association with the suspect,
   Jason Yousif.
- Q. When you say residence, you mean the house?
- 21 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Not residents meaning persons who --
- 23 A. C-e
- Q. Yeah, c-e versus e-n-t-s?
- A. Yes, sir.

- a husband, wife and two daughters living in the house before you undertook the search anyway?
- MS. URBANIC: Objection. I'm just going to renew the objection to this line of questioning because it pertains to a dismissed claim.
  - Q. (Continuing, by Mr. Goodman) Go ahead.
- A. The goal of every operation is to know as much as possible prior to executing the search warrant, so to answer your question, yes, the more information provided related to the residence, the more helpful.
  - Q. Do you have any -- did you ever ask whether there had been any other surveillance done on the house?
  - I don't recall, sir.
- Q. Do you have any information or knowledge as to
   why there was no other surveillance or
   information about the residents, the people
   living in the house?
  - MS. URBANIC: Objection as to form.
  - Q. (Continuing, by Mr. Goodman) Proceed.A. Again, I don't recall if that information was
  - disseminated prior to the execution of the warrant.
    - Q. When Agent Holton brought Mr. Tossa off the

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porch and handed him over to you, could you tell that Mr. Tossa was upset or frightened other than the shortness of -- excuse me, other than the rapid breathing which you described?

A. I assumed that the shortness of breath was caused by his surprise, so I guess -- I'm sorry. Could you repeat the question?

MR. GOODMAN: Would you read it back please?

(Reporter reads back question.)

11 A. No.

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- Q. (Continuing, by Mr. Goodman) So his facial expression did not show any indication of his being upset to you, is that right, sir?
- 15 A. Maybe I should clarify. As typical with most 16 warrants, he seemed surprised and upset. Was it out of the ordinary? No, but I should clarify 18 that yes, as in most warrants, Mr. Tossa did appear upset, scared, et cetera.
  - Q. Can you describe Mr. Tossa's height?
  - A. I can say he was under six foot.
  - Q. You indicated he was an elderly gentleman. Can you give me an estimate as you recall what his age would have been or range of age or anything like that?

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- A. A Michigan State police officer.
- Q. Right. Was she involved in any way with this operation, if you know?
- A. Yes, I believe she may have initiated the investigation based on what I've read and then I believe she was also present -- she was present at the search warrant.
  - Q. And when you say initiated the operation, that was as a result of a traffic interaction she had with Mr. Yousif on July 22nd, is that right?
  - Yes, sir.
  - Q. And was there, given the fact that her interaction with Mr. Yousif was on July 22nd and your entry into the Manchester location was at around 11:15 on July 25th, do you have any knowledge. recollection or explanation at this point as to why that the execution of that warrant was not undertaken at a time earlier either on that day or any other day before then?

MS. URBANIC: Objection to the form of the question, also objection because it's a question that pertains to a dismissed claim. Please go ahead and answer.

- Q. (Continuing, by Mr. Goodman) Please go ahead.
- A. I can say I don't know exactly the reason for

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Sorry. Felt like a loaded question.

MR. GOODMAN: Off the record. (Off the record discussion.)

A. I would say sixties, early sixties.

- Q. (Continuing, by Mr. Goodman) Okay. Was this a particularly busy period in terms of the work that you and your team were doing, if you can
- A. We typically have a busy group, so I would, I 10 can't say for sure, but I would suspect so.
- 11 Q. Do you recall one way or the other whether it was?
- 12 A. I don't.
- 13 Q. More busy than usual? Let's put it that way.
- 14 A. No. I don't.
- 15 Q. Do you know, you mentioned Jason Yousif before 16 as the suspect. Do you recall that?
- 17 A. Yes. sir.
- 18 Q. What did you mean by that?
- 19 A. He was the individual identified as -- I guess 20 he was the subject matter being investigated in 21 this investigation.
- 22 Q. Did you know why he was being investigated?
- 23 A. Just from reading over the reports, that he had 24 ties to marijuana trafficking at the time.
  - Q. Do you know who Dawn Zonca is?

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- this in this particular case, but I can say typically we -- there is some amount of due diligence that needs to be done in terms of obtaining information related to the subject and in this case associated residences, whether that be utility records, surveillance, documentation review. We may issue subpoenas and have a period of time before those requests are filled, so it would be more data collection, and building the case so to speak.
- Q. Utility records, meaning what?
- A. It may be often times we request utility DTE bills because targets often or subjects of investigation often utilize their name on utilities and in this case I believe there were DTE records pulled that described electricity usage for certain locations.
- Q. Which locations?
- A. In this case it was 134 Manchester.
- Q. Were there any utility records pulled from Marc

MS. URBANIC: I'm just going to renew the objection regarding questions as to a dismissed claim. Go ahead and answer.

Q. (Continuing, by Mr. Goodman) Go ahead.

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## Page 54

- A. I don't recall.
- Q. Going back to the ops plan, which is Exhibit 3,
   there is something called a target location in
- 4 there. Do you see that?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. What is the target location?
- 7 A. 134 Manchester.
- 8 Q. And what makes it the target, if you know?
- A. It's the location of a search warrant in this
   case.
- Q. Well, there was also a search warrant for Marc Street, was there not, if you know?
- 13 A. Yes, sir. I don't recall I don't recall

  14 hearing that we were going to execute the Marc

  15 search warrant until we were notified after the

  16 Manchester. That may have been the case, but I

  17 don't recall.
- Q. The suspect was Mr. Yousif, is that right?
- 19 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Did you know anything about Mr. Yousif, what he looked like, anything like that?
- A. I believe I didn't see a photo attached in the
- ops plan, but I mean just from what I read here,
- and I don't recall seeing it, but it would be
- very atypical that we didn't have a photo during

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- MS. URBANIC: Objection as to form.
- Please answer if you understand.
- Q. (Continuing, by Mr. Goodman) Let me rephrase the question. Was T.F.O. Tardif in charge of the operation at Marc Street?
  - MS. URBANIC: Objection as to form, but answer as you understand it.
  - A. Yes, sir. Just to clarify, as you describe,
  - Officer Tardif would have been in charge of the operation and Kleinschmidt would have been the supervisor, ultimately the supervisor over that operation and the functions of the group.
  - Q. (Continuing, by Mr. Goodman) So the person who supervised your actions and activities that day was Kleinschmidt, is that right?
- 16 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Now going back to Tardif, was he present outside the house when Mr. Tossa was brought out to you by Agent Holton?
- A. I don't recall if there were some members in the house as Mr. Tossa was coming out. I don't recall. sir.
  - Q. When you were part of the entry team at Marc Street, did you have a firearm that was drawn at that time?

## Page 55

- the briefing.
- Q. Well, it indicates on again the ops plan,
- Exhibit 3 that there was a photo attached, does
- A. Oh, okay. Just not to this, but yes, if there was one attached, I would have known.
- Q. And it indicates an age for him, does it not?
- 8 A. It does, 26, sir.
- Q. So that when Mr. Tossa was brought out of the
   house, it was pretty clear that was not the
   suspect, Ramsey Yousif, was it not?
- A. It was clear that that was not Mr. Yousif.
- Q. While Mr. Tossa was brought out to you by Agent Holton and after he was brought out to you, who was supervising your actions during this operation?
- A. Our supervisor, Kent Kleinschmidt.
- Q. Where was he located?
- <sup>18</sup> A. At which time, sir?
- Q. During the period that Mr. Tossa was brought outto you?
- A. I don't recall.
- Q. Was he outside or inside, do you know?
- A. I don't recall.
- Q. Was T.F.O. Tardif in charge in any way or
- supervising your operations?

Upon approach I would have had my firearm drawn.

- Q. What was it?
- <sup>3</sup> A. A Glock. I don't know which gun at the time I
- had, if it was a 22 or 23, but it most likely
- 5 would have been one of those.
- 6 Q. Is that a nine millimeter?
- 7 A. No, it's 40.
- 8 Q. And it's a hand gun, right?
- 9 A. Yes, sir.
  - Q. And you had it drawn -- when Tossa was brought out to you by Agent Holton, was your weapon still drawn?
  - MS. URBANIC: Objection as to form, but answer as best you understand.
  - A. So I would have initially approached the
- residence with my gun drawn. As Mr. Tossa would have been brought out and I would have been --
- if I was -- once I was designated as the
- recipient of Mr. Tossa, the one responsible for
- Mr. Tossa, I would have holstered my weapon
  before putting any, before putting or assisting
- Mr. Tossa.
- Q. (Continuing, by Mr. Goodman) And is that what
   you did?
- 25 A. Yes.

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## Page 62

- Powell, Agent Moore, myself, Agent Holton, Agent Benedict, Group Supervisor Kleinschmidt. If you're referring to, if you're referring to the Marc address.
  - Q. Yeah.

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- A. It would also have been Sterling Heights police officers. I don't recall who they were, but there were two of them. Michigan State police officer. I don't recall who that was. I mean 10 from reading the report I believe it was 11 Officer Zonca. I believe that's it.
  - Q. How about Hopkins?
- 13 A. I saw him on there, but I don't recall seeing 14 him. I saw him listed as an individual, but I 15 don't recall seeing him there.
- 16 Q. Did any of the Sterling Heights police officers, 17 what role -- withdraw that question. What role 18 did the Sterling Heights police officers play in 19 this particular operation?
- 20 A. They were the uniformed presence that accompanied us, so typically we utilize them and 21 22 we'll utilize their lights just to show the 23 occupants that it's the police and they're not 24 being robbed, so for everybody's safety, and

then generally they're the perimeter. They take

## Page 64

- household as far as you can recall?
- A. I don't recall.
- Q. Did he enter the house with the dog, if you know?
- A. That would have been his purpose. I don't know 5 if he went in in this instance. I don't know if 6 he conducted a search of this residence in this instance.
  - Q. Did you ever observe Agent Holton with his firearm drawn, pointed at Mr. Tossa?
  - A. Agent Holton I believe had approached with the ram and was designated the role, if we needed to breach the door, that was his role, so I don't recall if he would have drawn his weapon.
    - Q. My question is do you recall one way or another that his weapon was drawn?
    - A. No.

MR. GOODMAN: Okay. Let me take a break. (Recess 2:35 p.m. to 2:44 p.m.)

MR. GOODMAN: Back on the record. Agent Fitch, thanks a lot. I don't have any

other questions.

MR. RAITI: Agent Fitch, I'm Chris Raiti. I represent T.F.O. David Powell. I have no questions for you.

MR. KASZUBSKI: Special Agent, Marc

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- 1 perimeter or they'll go to the rear of the house or the front of the house and make sure that those areas are safe and secure.
  - Q. Did you observe any Sterling Heights police officers participate in holding or detaining the residents of the household after they were removed from the household?
  - A. Once the residence was secure, I remember seeing them near the front of the house and I believe at least one of the females was near the garage of the front of the house after the residence was cleared, safe and secure.
- Q. Dealing with the residents in any way, if you 13 14
- 15 A. I don't recall them interacting with the residents.
- 16 Q. Do you recall any of them inside the house at 17
- 18 A. I don't. I don't recall.
- 19 Q. How about the Michigan State trooper?
- 20 A I don't recall
- Q. Do you recall the Michigan State Police canine 21 22 unit present at the time?
- 23 A. Matt Unterbrink, from reading the report, Matt Unterbrink, he's a canine officer, he was there. 24 25
  - Q. Did he interact with any of the residents of the

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Kaszubski on behalf of the Sterling Heights officers. I have no questions for you either.

**EXAMINATION** 

BY MR. FEDYNSKY:

- Q. Good afternoon, sir. My name is John Fedynsky. I represent Trooper Matthew Unterbrink. You were asked a few questions about him. Do you have any particular recollection of what his activities were at the residence other than being present as the canine officer?
  - A. I don't recall specifically, but typically his role would have been perimeter security initially and then he would typically assist in the search of the residence with his canine.
- Q. If requested?
- A. If requested, that's correct.

MR. FEDYNSKY: Okay. Thanks for your time, sir.

> MS. URBANIC: I have no questions. MR. GOODMAN: That will do it. (Deposition concluded at 2:45 p.m.)